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What's helped me in my Christian walk

1.26.2020

(choices I've made, resources)

(not circumstances or things that have happened outside of my control, there's too many of those to name)

(these are the things I personally have done that have helped me learn and grown in Jesus.)

opened up the Bible, and started to read it, even though I didn't understand most of it, especially the Old Testament, but I kept reading it anyway. Just taking it in, whether the mind understands it yet or not, feeds us. Listening to the Bible (KJV for me) on audio cassette tapes in the 1990's, at night, and in the car. Making the Bible my authority, studying it. I did it alone. Anyone can do it. Listening to Bible in audio form is good too. You don't have to be scholarly or educated to understand it. It's food for everyone. I stopped reading other books, especially fiction and fantasy, and only read the Bible. It will bring life, health, healing, learning, and joy. His Word is a light and a lamp for us. Everything is covered about life in His Word. They say there's no guidebook to life, yes there is. God covered EVERYTHING in His Word. It's a gift to us. It shouldn't be a last choice, after all the worldly entertainment and distractions. It should come first. You'll see that it has everything -- poetry, prophecy, adventure, romance, epic battles, mysteries, and even "horror", (for those who think that's cool.)

I went to church, I got baptized (on my own, my own choice, as an adult, infant baptism is nothing.) In the 1990's. Small buildings, small congregations, no denomination. Solid Biblical teaching, prayer groups and home Bible studies during the week were had. The worship music was a small band that led us in praise, with the lyrics shown on a small screen up front. There were no flashing lights, or spotlights, or high-tech sound system or stage. The focus was not on the music, it was only a part of the service. Tithes were not mandatory, we gave as we felt led to give. The congregation was not so large that people were strangers, there was a real sense of fellowship and friendship there. The pastor was humble and unassuming. He shared from the heart and was not swelled up with vanity, arrogance, or pride. If a church can be found in these last days that is Biblically solid, it's a rare find. The options are growing fewer and for some, impossible to find. Church attendance will not save us, but being connected to other believers in fellowship is very important. If it's impossible to connect with other believers, just watching other's videos - testimonies and ministries - is a way to connect, even though it's remotely. That's what I do, and it works for me. In a perfect world, I'd be attending a good church nearby. But I make do with what I have. I'll watch some testimonies on youtube, and be so encouraged by them, and also learn new things. Search "Jesus testimony" and lots of people's stories will come up.

I learned of spiritual warfare, an uncomfortable subject, but it needs to be addressed in our life if we want to move forward in freedom and truth. I learned about open doorways through which demons still had access to me, from sins, and certain activities. I learned how to pray over these things, cut cords, close doors. Jesus does the work, but we need to be aware.

I found ways to serve Jesus. I learned how easy it was to pass out tracts, drop them anonymously wherever I felt led. Made copies of Christian articles that helped me, and distributed them. This is the first way I learned that I could serve Him. It was easy, fun, and something I could do, as I was still a young believer (I came to Jesus in 1987 at age 17) and still had so much to learn.

I got married. This eliminated my sinful ways of going from boyfriend to boyfriend. It brought me into a safe place. We were young and had no idea what we were doing, and it was hard. But that was one of the best choices I ever made. I stayed home, raised my daughter, and learned so much more about God. Learned more of the Bible. Time to study and pray. Marriage automatically cuts us off from more sinning. For those who are compulsive in relationships, on and off, from person to person, marriage stops all that. No expensive wedding is needed. The County Courthouse is right there.

I learned about idolatry as it pertains to objects and belongings, things in my home. Stuff got thrown away. Books, movies, music. Collections, including all my turtle figurines that I had kept since childhood. Decorations, posters.

I learned about the End Times, and how we're in them, and how fascinating it is.

Repentance. Quickly going to Jesus for forgiveness when I sin. Admitting I've sinned, truly sorry for it. Being washed clean in His Blood, getting up, going forward, knowing I'm forgiven. He died for us all, one time on the cross, for all of our sins, past, present, and future. But we must go to Him in prayer (not through a priest) and repent when we sin. It's personal, between us and Him.

Ending friendships and relationships. The hardest thing on this list. Following Jesus comes with a price - you

lose everything. The narrow path won't hold our baggage, we have to leave it all behind, give ourselves and our lives fully to Him. Seek first the kingdom of heaven, and all shall be added... In time, He may bring certain things back to you, or new things, that are much better for you. But what comes back to us is not important. What matters is that we lay it all down, choose the narrow path, and follow Him.

Learned about Pharmakeia. Drugs, including marijuana, and certain medications that are made to affect the mind. Stopped using all drugs, threw away medications, and stopped drinking alcohol. "Drunkenness" in the Bible is "sorcery", which is witchcraft, an abomination to God. This is a surprising topic for many people today, when these things are used so commonly.

Stopped listening to secular (non- Christian) music completely. Another hard cord to cut. Have even pulled away from most Christian music, because of these dark days. The enemy finds channels through almost every form of media these days. It's gotten to where, now, my music of choice is simple instrumental piano, in the background, as I go about my day.

Stopped all entertainment, and the desire to be entertained.

No more movies. TV is used minimally. Shopping and malls, no more. Purchasing only what's needed. No casual drinking, no parties. Basically turning my back on the world as we know it.

I could keep writing, but better stop this list here.

I'm still learning, and making changes, so this is definitely an unfinished list. I'm just sharing as I go. These things I listed are basic, as in, things we have to throw overboard if we want to really grow in our walk with Him.

links -

God's Word - Audio Bible links

- Dramatized KJV
- KJV 1 (Youtube Playlist)
- KJV 2 (Youtube playlist)
- KJV dramatized (Youtube playlist)
- KJV Reading
- The Holy Bible KJV

Christian learning

- The Gospel of Matthew movie (YouTube)
- Truthunedited.com
- Truthunedited Playlists (YouTube)
- The Bible Project
- The Bible Project (Playlists, YouTube)
- Book of Revelation movie (YouTube)

Spiritual warfare

https://youtu.be/hI0XTQZ105s

Instructions For Living pt. 1

https://youtu.be/2mbNWdVwihM

Instructions For Living pt. 2

https://youtu.be/Ucc5jaAYn94

Encouragement

https://youtu.be/ZeQZm9QzTUU

History of Religion

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5Ea1RHP4Jqqpe7U6PKJAZYXfuF1f5H9Q

Amy Lohrman Hall